

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/935,540

Examiner

Karen L. Le

Applicant(s)

KIRKPATRICK, MARK

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed on 1/16/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,7-9,13-15 and 21-29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/23/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Shirley Anderson (Reg. No. 57,763) on 3/23/07.

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) In a telecommunication system via an advanced intelligent network (AIN), a method for blocking future calls from ~~one~~ two or more callers to a callee, the method comprising:

controlling a service switching point (SSP) and communicating with a terminal associated with the one or more callers and the callee;

receiving a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from a telephone number associated with a first caller to the callee, wherein the callee dials a special sequence comprising a combination of numerals, letters, and symbols;

providing at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

receiving a second instruction from the callee prior to an expiration of a predetermined time period, wherein the time period may be determined based on parameters for blocking future calls;

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receiving and identifying the telephone number to block associated with the first caller, wherein identifying the telephone number comprises at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology or a reverse white pages look-up technology;

storing the telephone number to block associated with the first caller in a caller block table in a service data point (SDP);

playing a voice announcement to the callee that blocking future calls from the telephone associated with the first caller has been activated;

preventing, via the service switching point (SSP), one or more phone calls from the telephone number associated with the first caller from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee; and

playing a callee-selected message to the first caller of the telephone number to block when the first caller attempts to call the callee;

continuing with the service to block future calls, receiving a third instruction from the callee ~~to access the service to block future calls from a telephone number associated with a second caller; , wherein the callee dials the special sequence comprising the combination of numerals, letters, and symbols~~

providing at least one callee selection via the voice prompt responsive to the third instruction;

receiving a fourth instruction from the callee prior to the expiration of the predetermined time period, wherein the time period may be determined based on parameters for blocking future calls;

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receiving and identifying the telephone number to block associated with the second caller, wherein identifying the telephone number associated with the second caller is provided by the callee;

storing the telephone number to block associated with the second caller in the caller block table;

playing a voice announcement to the callee that blocking future calls from the telephone number associated with the second caller has been activated; and

preventing, via the service switching point (SSP), one or more phone calls from the telephone number associated with the second caller from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

Claim 21. (Amended) In a telecommunication system via a telephone network, a method for blocking future calls from ~~one~~ two or more callers to a callee, the method comprising:

communicating with a terminal associated with one or more callers and the callee;

receiving a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from a telephone number associated with a first caller to the callee, wherein the callee dials a special sequence comprising a combination of numerals, letters, and symbols;

providing at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

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sending a voice announcement to the callee if a second instruction is not received before a predetermined time period has expired, wherein the time period may be determined based on parameters to block future calls;

receiving and identifying the telephone number to block associated with the first caller, wherein identifying the telephone number comprises at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology or a reverse white pages look-up technology;

storing the telephone number to block associated with the first caller in a caller block table;

playing a voice announcement to the callee that blocking future calls has been activated;

preventing one or more phone calls from the telephone number associated with the first caller from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee;

continuing with the service to block future calls, receiving a third instruction from the callee to ~~access the service~~ to block future calls from a second telephone number associated with a second caller;

receiving and identifying the second telephone number to block is given by the callee;

and

storing the second telephone number to block given by the callee in the second caller block table; and

preventing one or more phone calls from the telephone number associated with the second caller from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen L. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7487.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon and Thurs: 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad F. Matar can be reached on 571-272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Karen Le
KLL

March 26, 2007



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